

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 9 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 27th February 1875.

In a letter to the *Hindu Ranjika* of the 17th February, the writers direct the attention of Government to the inconvenience, to the inhabitants of Sonpurá and adjacent villages, arising from the dense jungle and wild beasts in those places. There are no good tanks there. The people will be greatly benefited by the authorities ordering the clearance of the jungle. A large extent of land also may thus be reclaimed and brought under cultivation.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
February 17th, 1875.

2. The *Burrisál Bártábaha* of the 17th February, in the course of an editorial, regrets to observe that, while almost everybody in the present day evinces a strong interest in ameliorating the condition of the masses, educating the peasantry, and freeing them from the oppressions of the zemindars, nothing is said or done on behalf of the respectable but poor middle classes of the people. The condition of the latter is truly miserable. They can ill afford to maintain their position and procure means of subsistence in these hard times. Prices rule high. Wages of labour have risen, while the means of earning a livelihood are becoming gradually less attainable. Situations are scarce; and the number of candidates for every vacancy is very large. There is no inclination, however, to engage in commercial pursuits. The condition of the lower orders, on the other hand, has greatly improved within the last few years. Higher prices and wages have brought plenty to their homes. Prosperity has inflated them with pride, and they are now generally wanting in due courtesy to the higher classes. In short, the middle classes and the lower orders have, within the last few years, changed places as to income.

BURRISÁL
BARTÁBAHA,
February 17th, 1875.

3. The *Grámbártá Prákashiká* of the 17th February, in an article on the Civil Appeals' Bill, approves of the proposal of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to form composite benches, for the trial of decisions from which appeals will not lie to the High Court. At the same time, it recognizes the force of the objections taken to it by the British Indian Association. He believes that to impart an independent character to the decisions of the subordinate Judges, the Lieutenant-Governor will doubtless vest them with enlarged powers. Another beneficial consequence of the formation of composite benches will be to cement friendly feelings between the European and Native judicial officers, by bringing about more frequent communications while hearing the cases in appeal. But evil instead of good will result if increased powers be not conferred on the Subordinate Judges.

GRAMBARTÁ
PRÁKASHIKÁ,
February 17th, 1875.

4. In an article on the "Postal Department," the same paper refers to the mismanagement in this branch of the public service; and attributes some of the frequent irregularities in its proceedings to the fact, that the railway post offices are placed under a body of inspectors distinct from those that

GRAMBARTÁ
PRÁKASHIKÁ.

superintend the working of other post offices. And as all of them are equally zealous to shield their own immediate subordinates from punishment when found to be in fault, and to throw the blame on others, offenders go unpunished and the public suffer without any remedy. Government should therefore place both kinds of post offices under a common inspector, who will be held responsible for the faults of his subordinates.

SAMAJ DARPAN,
February 18th, 1875.

5. The *Samāj Darpan* of the 18th February observes, that one of the causes why the English have not been able to freely mix with the natives, is that intermarriage between them is in a manner impossible. Intermarriage prevailed to some extent among the Aryans and aborigines of India, and also among the Hindus and Mahomedans during the ascendancy of the latter. It was this fact that led to intimacy and friendship between them. A neighbourly feeling grew up by the permanent continuance of the Mahomedans in the country. Moreover, they were not after all so oppressive as they are generally represented to have been. The Hindus had under them a large share of political power. They commanded armies, ruled provinces, and collected the revenues. There were indeed oppressions; but they were due rather to irregularity in the system of Government than to any other cause; yet their oppressions were trifling in comparison with those of the Mahrattas and the Pindaries. The case is, however, otherwise under the English rule. They have no love for this country and no desire to settle in it. There is, besides, the fact of a difference of religion. The Hindus will have nothing to do with Christianity, and *vice versa*. They, however, look upon Mahomedanism with less intolerance; nay, fakirs and pirs are generally respected and honored. The majority of the Mahomedans also venerate the Hindu gods and goddesses, and both alike regard the Christian scriptures as profane writings.

SAMAJ DARPAN.

6. The same paper, in another article, headed the "Lieutenant-Governor on Native Newspapers," is highly gratified to find the loyalty of the native press justly vindicated in the newly-published administration report, in spite of the clamours of the Anglo-Indian journalists. He remarks:—What a vast difference between Mr. Lely and the Lieutenant-Governor! Why should Her Majesty have conferred the Lieutenant-Governorship on Sir Richard Temple and not on the Editors of the *Englishman* and similar papers, if it were not for his magnanimity? We have had indeed frequent occasions to write against the Government; but have we not said, at the same time, that in the administration of justice the British Government excels even the reign of Rāma? We only complain that the English are an *all-grasping* nation. We desire the continuance of the British rule in India; but are anxious to see it freed from the defects that now disfigure it. And is this disloyalty in us? Or is it not more properly the expression of true and sincere devotion? It is only because we love the British Government, and as a consequence of the light of knowledge which it has imparted to us, that we venture to say so much. And if, under these circumstances, we undertake to expose any faults, does it become the authorities to charge us with disloyalty, rather than receive our suggestions as kind counsels?

SAMAJ DARPAN,
February 25th, 1875.

7. The same paper of the 25th February writes the following, in an editorial on "Baroda and Lord Northbrook":—None would place any faith in the sanctity of a lion, however innocently he may drink the water of the fountain, sleep in mountain-caves, and live on nothing but the flesh of deer. We have very nearly the same impressions in regard to the English. However much and unceasingly they may study the Bible, preach the beauties of love and disinterestedness, ransack the treasures of different languages

(3)

and works of genius, and however much they may claim the possession of the civilization of the nineteenth century, we have a strong conviction that the English can never be entirely free from a love of dominion; and that all their philosophy vanishes before this intense greed. Even Lord Northbrook, with all his experience, greatness, and prudence, does not seem to us to be entirely beyond its influence. It seems to be perfectly clear that he will annex Baroda to the British Government. But what is to be chiefly wondered at, is the conduct of a number of English editors now advocating annexation, but who on all other occasions have paraded their liberal views by descanting on the injustice of such a measure. We do not of course mean to say that Lord Northbrook will act on their advice; though, at the same time, we fail to perceive the sincerity of his conduct in this matter. There can be no doubt that His Excellency possesses a habit of exemplary patience; but his conduct in reference to Baroda has been marked by a contrary spirit. From the first he has betrayed a hastiness, and a want of that deliberation, which marks all his other proceedings. We have never found him wanting in courtesy; but in all the proclamations that have been issued in connection with Baroda, there are evidences of pride and anger. We shall watch with eagerness the results of these affairs at Baroda. We have all along hoped, since the suppression of the mutiny of 1857, that Her Majesty would no longer permit the policy of annexation to be pursued by her Viceroys; nor have we seen it pursued since the days of Lord Canning. The destiny of Baroda will satisfy our curiosity. The recent conduct of Lord Northbrook has awakened doubts in our hearts. It seems that a strong desire exists for proving the guilt of that State.

8. In an article on the Guicowar, after explaining to its readers the purport of the instructions given to the Commissioners appointed for his trial, the *Education Gazette* of the 19th February remarks:—It is strange to find the *Times* declaring its opinion that Mulharrao should not be restored to his throne, even if he be acquitted of the charge of administering poison. That reasoning must be indeed remarkable, which would have led such an intelligent man, as the Editor of the *Times*, to arrive at this conclusion. If the Guicowar is thought unfit to govern on other grounds, that is a separate matter, as his present trial has no reference to them, and as he has been allowed a period of eighteen months, which has not been yet completed, for introducing reforms into his administration. In the present instance, also, he should be held innocent until actually proved guilty. Government has indeed power to dethrone Mulharrao, but it will never depose him unjustly.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 19th, 1875.

9. A correspondent of the same paper, referring to the proposed establishment of a Deputy Magistrate's Court at Thákurgáng, in the district of Dinagepore, requests Government to establish it in mouzah Shatisatar in the same district, and thereby confer a lasting benefit on the inhabitants, who are at present sorely annoyed by thieves.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

10. The *Bhárat Sangskarak* of the 19th February writes the following in an article on the "Railway Mitrálayas":—For the convenience of European passengers on the East Indian Railway, hotels have been opened in almost all the stations. Native passengers, however, especially when travelling with their families, are put to much inconvenience for want of similar institutions. The Company, eager to promote its own interests, does not bestow even a moment's thought on the matter. Some five years ago, however, Baboo Níl Kamal Mittra, of Allahabad, resolved to remove this signal inconvenience,

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
February 19th, 1875.

and obtained the permission of the Railway authorities to erect at his own expense Hindu hotels in some seven or eight stations where the trains would stop for any time. Native passengers were thus greatly benefited. But as the permission had been given only for five years, at the expiration of that period some misunderstanding arose between the Baboo and the authorities of the Railway, owing to certain demands having been made from him by the latter, with which he could not comply without being a loser. The consequence was that the former was obliged to give up the hotels. Nothing has yet been done to remove the inconvenience of the native passengers, whom these hotels had only temporarily benefited. Others have not been established in their stead: for no native would undertake the task on the conditions required by the Company. We do not quite understand the indifference shown by the Railway Company to the convenience of its passengers, and its seeming forgetfulness of the fact, that their conduct may be detrimental to their own interests, by causing a decrease in the number of travellers by rail. We request the authorities to re-invite the Baboo, and make a permanent agreement with him similar to that which exists between them and Mr. Kelner.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
February 19th 1875.

11. The same paper thus comments on an editorial in the *Times*, in which that journal dwells on the advisability of appointing natives of India to high positions under the British Government. The *Times* would see the English superintend all matters connected with Government, while the natives should have access to all departments of public service, and their sphere of action be enlarged. We, also, do not desire more than this. The more the natives become competent for work, the better will they be able to help the rulers; while, on the other hand, the more unfit they become, the danger to the rulers is more frequent. Why is the Government encumbered with so much expenditure in connection with the War Department? Are there no warlike tribes in India, that the Government is so anxious to recruit its soldiers in England? How much would the natives be encouraged and public money saved, if greater scope were given them in the civil service and the Public Works Department? Endeavours should be made to make the Indian Empire self-supporting. The good of both the governed and the governors will be consulted in this way.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

12. The Editor of the same paper directs the attention of the Government to the letter of a correspondent, published in the same issue, in which the writer adverts to the difficulties suffered by the students of the Calcutta Civil Engineering College, owing to the arbitrary and extremely rigorous rules made by the Principal for their promotion from one class to another. Considering that the prospects of the successful students are anything but favorable, in comparison with those of men from Cooper's Hill or Roorkee College, and that only two or three candidates are annually passed in the third yearly examinations held in Calcutta out of some two hundred that pass in the first year, it behoves Government to make inquiries into the subject and afford ample facilities for the extension of knowledge in civil engineering.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

13. Adverting to the highly-colored statements in the report compiled by Mr. Markham on the present condition of India, and which has been reviewed in the *London Daily News*, the same paper remarks:—No one can deny that India has made considerable progress, both externally and internally, under the British Government. But it does not always fall to our lot to witness the vast progress of which we read in the report. There can be

no doubt that such reports are extremely misleading to foreigners. It of course sounds very pleasant to say that in India, through the municipal institutions, the people are learning self-government; but those acquainted with the subject know full well that, in this self-government, they are entirely subject to the will of the rulers. Some cities, indeed, have improved in healthiness; but who can assert that diseases and deaths have been fewer throughout India? Reports are indeed compiled and published by the local Governments, and even the learned of foreign countries exercise their talents upon them; but it is needless to add that proper means have not yet been taken to ascertain facts and obtain correct data. We do not believe that other calculations are more accurately made than those connected with the census; and the natives of the country know well what value should be set upon them. The education report also is disfigured by exaggerations. One is indeed struck with wonder, when he hears that in one year the number of the primary schools increased from 2,000 to five times this number; but little ground for boasting remains when it is considered that this increase is only nominal, and that what, as *Páthshálás*, would not previously be taken into account, are now counted as primary schools. So it is with the progress of female education, with clubs, and the activity of the press.

14. In a lengthy editorial, the *Grámbási* of the 19th February dwells on the agricultural condition of Bengal; and remarks that, as the cultivation of rice depends entirely on timely rainfall, which, however, frequently fails, as is shown by the experience of the last few years, it urgently behoves Government, the zemindars, and the ryots to devise means for carrying on cultivation as far as possible without this help. A substitute for rain-water will be found in the water of rivers, a large number of which exists in Bengal. These should be utilized for irrigation purposes by the construction of bunds and flood-gates along the banks. Large extents of land in the Midnapore district are thus watered and fitted for the cultivation of rice.

GRAMBASI,
February 19th, 1875.

15. In a letter to the *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 20th February, the writer observes, that almost all riots among the tenantry in the present day are caused by the faults of the ignorant ryots and not of the zemindars, the majority of whom are educated and love the tenants. The oppressions of landlords have ceased to exist since the introduction of the British rule into this country. It is, however, to be regretted that the respective rights of landlord and tenant are not clearly defined by law, and that Government is often unjustly severe upon the zemindars from an idea that they oppress the tenantry.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
February 20th, 1875.

16. The *Sáptáhiik Samáchar* of the 20th February, in reference to the Bill for the realization of advances made to the ryots during the famine, regrets to remark that the proposal of the Hon'ble Baboo Krista Dás Pál, to realize the repayment of the loans in several instalments, has not been carried out. Government should, however, receive the payment in kind as it was made. If money is demanded, the ryots will be great losers; for prices are now much easier than they were during the scarcity.

SAPTÁHIK SAMACHAR,
February 20th, 1875.

17. The *Dacca Frakásh* of the 21st February regrets to note, that the Lieutenant-Governor is so anxious to uphold the Civil Appeals' Bill, by the formation of composite benches of judges for the trial of cases in appeal, and so improving the condition of the mofussil courts. Serious objection, however, has been taken to his proposal by the British Indian Association. The Bill should be thrown out altogether.

DACCA FRAKASH,
February 21st, 1875.

SAHACHAR,
February 22nd, 1875.

18. (The *Sahachar* of the 22nd February has an article on the conduct of "Manchester towards India." The Editor observes, that it seems to have become the fixed resolve of the merchants of Manchester to anyhow ruin the newly-established cloth-mills in India. To accomplish this purpose they requested the Secretary of State for India to abolish the duty on imported cloth, as otherwise they could not compete in the markets with the products of the Indian mills. Foiled in this, they have had recourse to another expedient. They are urging on the legislature the importance of enacting a law which shall fix the working hours of the Indian laborers; who, it is contended, are at present over-worked. Thus, under the cloak of sympathy for the poor laborers, they hide their real design, which is to raise the wages of labor, and thus place difficulties in the way of the newly-established mills. The Editor hopes that both the Secretary of State and the Government of India will see through their motives and act accordingly.

SAHACHAR.

19. The same paper is gratified to find, that the authorities of the East Indian Railway have appointed a number of native guards, and thus adopted an economical measure which will be productive of many beneficial consequences. He, however, regrets to find that there is a vast discrepancy in the salaries of European and native guards. While an European guard is never paid less than Rs. 100 a month, the native guards have all been appointed on Rs. 30 to Rs. 40. Their pay should be raised. The authorities of the Company are also besought to appoint natives as engine drivers.

PRABHAT SAMIR,
February 26th, 1875.

20. The *Prabhāt Samir* of the 26th February, in a lengthy editorial on the oppressions and inefficiency of the present Police, and the utter indifference manifested by Government to the repeated complaints against it, remarks, that unless the Police be thoroughly reformed and placed under more efficient management, it is better to abolish it altogether, as the object for which it was created is not in the least degree secured. The people tamely submit to its oppressions, being aware that Government has vested it with almost absolute powers, and that it will not heed their complaints.

NADIR-UL-AKHBAR,
February 14th, 1875.

21. The *Nādir-ul-Akhhār* makes the following remarks in reference to the report forwarded by the Magistrate and local committee of Bhagulpore for the removal of the Bengali head-master of the station school there, agreeably to a petition presented by some of the residents and commented upon by this paper a short time back. The Editor, after writing a lengthy dissertation upon the great dissimilarity of language and customs existing between the Bengalis and the people of Behār says, that if another Bengali head-master be appointed, matters will become just as bad as they were. He urges, therefore, upon Government the advisability of appointing competent educated Hindustanis in the first place to all such posts; and thereby to stimulate the cause of education, which has but recently begun to make some progress in this province. With reference to schools, if competent men from Behār cannot be procured, let the Hindus of the North-West Provinces be employed, whose language corresponds in some degree with that of Behār. The people here have always been averse to education; and now, when some advance has been made, if no prospects such as the above are held out, they will doubtless retrograde. A Bengali finds it extremely difficult to make himself intelligible to Hindustani pupils of the higher forms; and in the case of the lower, who have need of explanation of the simplest kind, matters would be still worse; and it very often happens that a Bengali master, when teased into explaining anything, gets out of temper, and ends by calling the boy a rascal and a fool, and chastising the pupil for that which was not his fault.

22. The *Chushmeh-i-ilm* draws the attention of Government to the great increase of prostitutes in this country. It has tended in a great degree to counteract all the benefits which the young men derive from education. The Editor urges the enactment of some such laws as have been recently introduced into the State of Missouri.

CHUSHMEH-I-ILM,
February 16th, 1875.

23. A correspondent, writing to this paper, praises the exertions of a Baboo, who has taken very great interest in the progress of the newly-established school at Khagoul and become its Secretary. The pupils now number between 60 and 70, and acquitted themselves remarkably well at the examination. He prays that Government may be induced to give a grant-in-aid towards the support of the school.

BEHAR BANDHU,
February 17th, 1875.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 27th February 1875.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 27th February 1875.

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Satya Prakash"	Banaripara, Burrisal	Bi-monthly	2nd fortnight of Magh 1281 (B.S.)
2	"Ajijan Nahar"	Lahinipara, Kooshtea	Ditto	7th February
3	"Grambasi"	Ranaghata	Ditto	19th ditto.
4	"Uchit Bakti"	Azimgunge, Moorshedabad	Ditto	23rd ditto.
5	"Burrisal Bartabaha"	Burrisal	Weekly	17th ditto.
6	"Hindu Ranjika"	Bauleah, Rajshahye	Ditto	17th ditto.
7	"Grambarti Prakashika"	Comercolly	Ditto	17th ditto.
8	"Samaj Darpan"	Calcutta	Ditto	18th and 25th February.
9	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	Ditto	19th February.
10	"Bharat Sangskarak"	Harinavi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto	19th ditto.
11	"Saptahik Samachar"	Calcutta	Ditto	20th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishini"	Dacca	Ditto	20th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakash"	Ditto	Ditto	21st ditto.
14	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	Ditto	21st ditto.
15	"Sadharani"	Chinsurah	Ditto	21st ditto.
16	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	Ditto	22nd ditto.
17	"Saptahik Sambad"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta	Ditto	26th ditto.
18	"Samachar Chandrika"	Calcutta	Bi-weekly	18th and 22nd February.
19	"Prabhat Samir"	Ditto	Daily	27th January to 24th February, and 26th February.
20	"Sambad Prabhakar"	Ditto	Ditto	18th to 25th February.
21	"Sambad Purnachandrodaya."	Ditto	Ditto	20th to 26th ditto.
22	"Nadir-ul-Akhbar" (in Urdu)	Monghyr	Weekly	14th February.
23	"Behar Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Patna	Ditto	17th ditto.
24	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu)	Calcutta	Ditto	20th ditto.
25	"Jam-Jehan-numa" (in Persian).	Ditto	Ditto	26th ditto.
26	"Chushmeh-i-ilm" (in Urdu)	Patna	Bi-Monthly	16th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

